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SAN DIEGO QUARANTINE STATION,
San Diego, Cal., November 15, 1900.

SIR: Relative to the importation from China and Japan of dried fish, salt eggs packed in loam, lily bulbs, water chestnuts, yams, and similar articles, I have to state that my instructions are, that unless such importations are accompanied by a certificate issued by the marine-hospital officers, certifying that the said importations have not originated in an infected territory, the same must be disinfected before being allowed to land.

Medical officers of the Service are stationed in the United States consular office at Hongkong, Kobe, and Yokohama.

It seems, therefore, that it would be a comparatively easy matter for the consignor or the steamship agent, at port of departure, to visit the American consul's office to obtain the necessary certificate.

Dr. Kerr is stationed at Hongkong and Dr. Eldridge at Yokohama. Either of these gentlemen will be found in the American consular office during regular business hours.

Respectfully,

W. W. MCKAY,
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
 United States Quarantine Officer.*

QUON MANE & Co.,
Chinese and Japanese Importers, San Diego, Cal.

SAN DIEGO QUARANTINE STATION,
San Diego, Cal., November 15, 1900.

SIRS: Relative to the importation from China and Japan of dried fish, salt eggs packed in loam, lily bulbs, water chestnuts, yams, and similar articles, I have to state that my instructions are that unless such importations are accompanied by a certificate issued by the marine-hospital officers, certifying that the said importations have not originated in an infected territory, the same must be disinfected before allowed to land.

Drs. Kerr and Eldridge, officers of the Service, are stationed in Hongkong and Yokohama, respectively. There is also a medical officer of the Service stationed in Kobe.

It seems, therefore, that it would be a comparatively easy matter for either the steamship agents or the shipper to obtain the necessary medical certificate by a visit to the American consul's office, where the medical officer of the Marine-Hospital Service may be found during regular business hours.

Respectfully,

W. W. MCKAY,
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
 United States Quarantine Officer.*

Messrs. A. E. HIGGINS & Co.,
Custom-House Brokers, San Diego, Cal.

Instruction to steamship companies concerning Chinese merchandise.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., November 20, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of letters addressed to the steamship companies and others relative to disinfection of Chinese merchandise, as directed by your letter of November 15, 1900 (G., J. H. W.).

I desire to state that agents of both the steamship lines coming into this district are always on board when I make my inspection, one always boarding here, and often several from Tacoma or Seattle meeting the vessel at Victoria, and coming over from there. On every vessel, in the presence of these gentlemen, I have informed the captain of the necessity of having these goods viséed abroad in order to avoid disinfection here, and of your direction that they be stored in an accessible part of the hold. I have also asked if they had not received these instructions from their general offices at the port of loading in the Orient.

The captain generally said that he had received no such instructions. I have called the attention of the agent to the captain's statement, instructed the agent to see that the officers of the company abroad be again notified, and I have warned the captain personally that the next time he came without having the merchandise viséed and stored as

directed, he would be subject to great delay and trouble. The agents have informed me that all these captains must have been instructed and that they did not heed their instructions, or else carelessly forgot them. I have taken up this matter so often and gone into it so minutely that it has become almost a farce. The Northern Pacific agent, Mr. Clark, has had many instructions concerning what articles were considered suspicious and how we wanted the cargo handled, and has repeatedly assured me that the matter has been brought before the proper officers of the company again and again. The officers of the last three vessels to arrive had all this explained to them by myself personally upon previous trips, and the fact that they made some effort to do as directed in regard to the cargo proves that they knew of the regulation.

Respectfully,

M. H. FOSTER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

[Inclosures.]

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., *February 6, 1900.*

To steamship companies and others:

An order having been issued by the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service that hereafter all eggs, yams, sugar cane, and similar articles packed in soil, coming from plague-infected ports, should be disinfected at this end unless viséed by an officer of the Service at the port of departure, I have to request that you notify your agents in foreign ports of the order and ask that they have articles of this nature placed in the hold in one compartment and in such a position that they will be readily accessible on arrival here. This arrangement has been made with companies running lines to other ports on this coast and will expedite the quarantine inspection here, which is our constant inspection, as well as your own.

Any further information we can supply on this matter will be cheerfully given.

M. HUGH FOSTER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., *November 10, 1900.*

To steamship companies and others:

Hereafter all Chinese and Japanese food stuffs liable to plague infection, including goods from the soil, packed in soil, dried fish, dried ducks, etc., will not be allowed to pass this station without being disinfected here, unless viséed by our officers abroad. These goods should come packed in an accessible part of the hold, each package marked by our officers, and the invoice accompanied by a certificate to the same effect. As the arrival of a vessel with this merchandise not so prepared will cause a great deal of delay, I would advise you to cable this condition to your agents abroad.

M. H. FOSTER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In command.

A case of smallpox in Cairo, Ill.

CAIRO, ILL., *November 27, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that a patient suffering with smallpox presented himself for treatment at this office this morning. He has been admitted to the isolation hospital.

This is the first case in this city since July 21, 1900. It was about this time last year that the disease made its appearance here.

From the history of the case, infection occurred at Vicksburg, Miss. The patient, colored, came from Vicksburg to Cairo via Memphis, being in the latter city two days. He had a chill on Friday, but has been working ever since. Patient states that "the country is full of it" about Vicksburg, where it is treated as the "Cuban itch."

Respectfully,

JOHN MILTON HOLT,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.